

# January is National Radon Action Month!

## Why does Radon have its own month?

Radon is a radioactive gas and a natural element that is found all over the world. It is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. Radon can cause serious health concerns if exposed to over a significant period of time.

## Where does radon come from?

Radon is usually found in soil, rocks, and water. It can easily get into water that is from an underground sources, like a well. Once that well water is brought into the house, it can cause a few problems. When well water has elevated levels of radon and it is heated by boiling, a washing machines, or a dishwashers, it can dissolve and escape into the air.

## What are the health concerns associated with radon?

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in individuals who do not smoke. Just by breathing in radon, it increases your risk of getting lung cancer. If an you are a smoker and you are exposed to radon, then you are at a significantly higher risk of developing lung cancer. Ingesting water with elevated levels of radon can increase an individuals risk of developing stomach cancer.

## Should I test my water and air for radon?

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) recommends testing for radon if your house is serviced by well water. It is possible to have elevated radon levels in your water and not in the air. CT DPH also recommends that all homes should be tested for radon in the air. A common source of radon in the air is from the rocks and soil that surround your home.

**The only way to know if you have a radon problem is to test you home.**

Radon in your home is a serious health risk and it can easily be reduced and is cost effective.

**You can get a free radon testing kit at your local health department!**



West Hartford—Bloomfield Health District

580 Cottage Grove Road

Bloomfield, Connecticut 06002

(860) 561-7900

Monday—Friday

8:30 am to 4:30 pm

